

Message Text

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TAGS: APER, AFSP, ML

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR TDY GSO

1. WITH THE DEPARTURE OF GSO HESTER AUG. 28 FOR SIX WEEKS, AND THE AUG 31 DEPARTURE OF TDY GSO HICKMAN, I AM BECOMING INCREASINGLY MORE DISMAYED AT THE LACK OF A POSITIVE REPLY TO OUR REQUEST FOR TDY GSO ASSISTANCE FOR THE PERIOD SEPT 1-OCT 15.

2. I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE OUR DEFINITE NEED WITH A FEW STATISTICS:

A. THERE ARE 32 SAS FSL'S TO BE SUPERVISED IN ADMIN, AND A TOTAL OF 26 HOUSES AND APARTMENTS WHICH REQUIRE CONTINUING M&R SERVICE.

B. 8 AMER. AID EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE ROLES SINCE LAST YEAR.

C. FROM MAY 18 TO AUG 20 MY ADMIN OFFICER, RICHARD MASTERS, WAS ACTING DCM, OFFICED IN THE CHANCERY AND PHYSICALLY SEPARATED FROM THE ADMIN OPERATION. DURING THAT TIME HE WAS CHARGE FOR 46 DAYS AND OF NECESSITY DEVOTED HIS ATTENTION TO THE OVERALL OPERATION OF THE EMBASSY.

D. IN THOSE THREE MONTHS THERE WERE THREE TEMPORARY ADMIN SECRETARIES FOR VARIOUS LENGTHS OF TIME WHILE A SEARCH WAS MADE FOR A QUALIFIED MALIAN. MASTERS HAD LITTLE TIME TO DIRECT THEM, AND EVEN ROUTINE ROUTING OF

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DOCUMENTS BOGGED DOWN. ACTION COPIES WERE FILED UNDONE,

AND I AM NOW RECEIVING FOLLOW-UP REQUESTS FROM THE DIRGEN AND ONE DEP. ASST SECY. ALL VERY EMBARRASSING FOR MASTERS AND ME. THIS IS NOT A POST WHICH RUNS ITSELF WHILE AN OFFICER SITS WITH FEET ON DESK AND SIGNS HIS OR HER NAME. THE MALIANS HAVE TO BE ENCOURAGED, PRODDED, CAJOLED, AND JOLLIED INTO PRODUCING AT A MINIMAL PACE ACCEPTABLE TO AMERICANS.

E. NEED I REMIND YOU OF THE CASHIER PROBLEMS BAMAKO HAS SUFFERED IN THE PAST? WE NOW HAVE A GOOD MAN AND RUTH MARKUSON DID A FINE JOB OF TRAINING HIM. NO ONE WANTS HIM OCCUPIED WITH OTHER MATTERS AND NOT AVAILABLE TO GIVE ADVICE.

F. MASTERS IS PREPARED TO DO THE GENERAL SERVICES WORK, HOWEVER IT IS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO DO BOTH JOBS. HE NOW HAS A FORMIDABLE AMOUNT OF OVERDUE WORK AND WILL FACE AN INSURMOUNTABLE TASK IF LEFT UNASSISTED FOR SIX WEEKS.

G. TO REFUSE HESTER HIS LEAVE WOULD BE TOTALLY UNFAIR. HE HAS BEEN WORKING A SIX DAY WEEK FOR EIGHT MONTHS. HIS WIFE IS IN THE STATES TRYING TO RESETTLE HER FAMILY AND NEEDS ASSISTANCE, AND JIM HAS ALREADY DELAYED HIS LEAVE FOR A MONTH AS A PERSONAL FAVOR TO ME AND THE POST. WE CANNOT ASK MORE OF HIM.

H. FINALLY, BUT NOT LEAST IMPORTANT, MASTERS HAS HAD ONLY 19 HOURS OF LEAVE IN THE PAST YEAR AND THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT IN SIGHT. AS ALWAYS HE IS UNCOMPLAINING, AND OUR MAIN CONCERN IS THAT BAMAKO'S ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION FUNCTION PROPERLY. I AM COUNTING ON THE BUREAU AND USAID TO ASSIST US IN THAT ENDEAVOR.

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